consumers ;

(c) whether there would be increased cost to the consumers ; and

(d) what precautionary measures would be taken for the better management by the private players and safeguard the interest of the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Since water supply and sanitation are State subjects, it is for the State Governments to take a decision regarding private sector's involvement in water supply and sanitation. The Ministry of Urban Development is rendering all possible assistance to the State Governments to initiate the process of privatisation through policy formulation and exposure to international experience in this area. To sensitise the State Governments/Urban local Bodies, the Ministry organised a seminar on Private Sector Participation in water supply and sanitation on 7-8 February, 2000. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Urban Development is also stressing the State Governments to enhance the capacity of Urban Local Bodies by way of effective financial management and training inputs of various categories of staff to effectively deal with responsibilities of water supply and sanitation conservancy.

(b) One of the objectives of private sector's involvement is to improve the quality of services to the consumers.

(c) Special attention would need to be paid to increase tarrif in a gradual manner from the present level that is too low to cover the cost of operation and maintenance, as well as to provide for new investment.

(d) Independent regulators would be needed to monitor services, quality and tarrif levels of both public and private operators. Tarrifs would need to be so structured that lifeline supply would be available at minimum cost.

Unauthorised constructions in DDA Flats

2585. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the reasons for large scale unauthorised constructions/additions/alterations in DDA flats is that the DDA does not use the power of cancellation of allotment of flats where unauthorised constructions have taken place ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the grounds on which the cancellations of allotment of flats can be done by the D. D. A. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) It is not true that the DDA does not take any action for the cancellation of allotment of flats falling within the jurisdiction of the DDA where unauthorised construction/ addition/alteration is noticed. As soon as a report in this regard is received from the field staff, show-cause notice/final notice is issued to the allottee for violation of terms and conditions of allotment. In case no reply is received within the stipulated period, the allotment of flat is cancelled.

Where the areas have been denotified under the DD Act, 1957 and transferred to MCD, the MCD authorities are informed for taking action for removal of unauthorised construction, encroachment, etc. In addition, DDA has started taking action for the cancellation of leases where the flats falling in such denotified areas are still under leasehold.

(c) The grounds for cancellation of allotment of DDA flats are unauthorised construction, & addition/alteration, encroachment, misuse, etc.

Norms for appointment of reception officer in HUDCO

2586. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDAR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any norms prescribed for appointment of Reception Officer at HUDCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the sanctioned strength and incumbency position for the last five years ; and

(d) whether there was any violation of rules in their appointments ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The appointment is governed by Recruitment & Promotion Rules of Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO).

(c) HUDCO has reported that against the sanctioned strength of eight posts, two candidates joined in 1998, one in 1999 and two in 2000.

(d) No Sir. HUDCO has reported that all appointments were made as per rules and with the approval of competent authority, based on the result of written test and interviews held on all India basis.